



**Community Meeting #2
Proposed Co-location of Wilma Rudolph Learning Center
and Hope Learning Academy**

**January 17, 2018
Hope Learning Academy Campus 1628 W. Washington
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

CPS Staff in Attendance:

Carl Hurdlik, Brian Metcalf, Cheryl Nevins, Natasha Patterson, Syda Taylor, Juan Maldonado, Norma Seledon, Kimeco Roberson, Syda Taylor, Lauren Turner, Ana Diaz, Cynthia Williams, Samuel Goshay, Corey Walden, Nicole Haynes, Carla Escobar, Elizabeth Keenan, Cynthia Sanders, and Lori Guidry.

CPS Presentation

Brian Metcalf opened the meeting by welcoming the audience. He explained meeting logistics. He presented himself as Chief of Schools from Network 6. He introduced Natasha Patterson, the Deputy Chief of Schools from Network 6. He explained that the meeting is intended to allow CEO Janice Jackson to listen to comments and concerns from the community. He advised that representatives from the Office of Diverse Learner Supports and Services (ODLSS) and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) are present, including, Elizabeth Keenan, Cynthia Sanders, and Lori Guidry. He encouraged the community to visit the resource table for answers to any questions.

He advised that any comments made outside of the auditorium are not part of the formal meeting. He informed the public that they are able to make comments at transitions@cps.edu or submit written comments at the registration table. He encouraged the community to view the full proposal at www.cps.edu/transitions.

Cheryl Nevins provided an overview of the legal process. She reviewed important dates, including dates of published draft guidelines for school actions, dates notice letters and draft transition plans were sent, and community meeting and hearing dates. She advised that in February, 2018 or later, CPS will make recommendations to the Board after the community meetings and hearing are held. She explained the definition of co-location: means two or more separate, independent schools with their own school leader(s) coexisting within a CPS facility. She explained that Rudolph Learning Center would share space with Hope Learning Academy, in the Spaulding Building, at 1628 West Washington Boulevard.

She went over the history of the proposal and stated that in October of 2017, the Rudolph community recommended that Rudolph move from their current building to co-locate with Hope Learning Academy. She stated that the Rudolph building is in very poor condition and that Hope Learning Academy (Spaulding Campus) has available space and updated accessibility features within a multi-floor building which would provide students with significant disabilities the access to a typical school experience and environment. She explained that there is more than sufficient space to accommodate combined Rudolph and Hope enrollment as Hope (Spaulding Campus) capacity is 1,000 and Rudolph currently serves 92 students (20th day enrollment) and Hope serves 363 students (20th day enrollment). She explained that Hope would maintain exclusive use of the lunchroom, gym and library, and that both schools would share the meeting room, auditorium, center garden and main entrance.

Mr. Metcalf provided protocol for public feedback.

Public Comments

Jodi Ogilvy: Director of communications for Hope. She stated Hope's mission emphasized that they serve those who are underserved. She stated that they know what it takes to improve the lives of students at Rudolph. She welcomed the Rudolph community and hopes they can work toward their mission of a more inclusive society. She stated that they have yet to see a safety plan that would integrate both schools. She expressed concern about the lack of ADA compliance and safety equipment, and lack of private toilet facilities. She stated that she is concerned about the promise of a therapy pool. She stated that locker rooms are currently unsafe which would require significant amount of money to rehab. She stated that she looks forward to a detailed plan to ensure that the students get the services they deserve in the safest place possible.

Holly Dacres: Principal of Rudolph. She stated that she is advocating for the students and parents. She stated that many parents are not present because they do not have access to proper transportation or are providing care for their children. She quoted Dr. Martin Luther King, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." She stated that not having adequate space or updated facilities is an injustice to the needs of students. She stated that parents do not have a private, confidential space to meet to discuss IEPs. She stated that there is not enough space for nursing care for students with special needs. She stated that she is asking for proper space, not an annex. She asked CPS to do what is just and make the right choice for students who have the most significant needs.

Dr. Richard Smith: Retired administrator. He stated that he is fully in favor of the move so that the students get what they deserve. He stated that staff at Rudolph are caring and dedicated and that Hope's principal is great. He shared that he has no doubt that the co-location will work. He stated that Maggie Daley was a driving force behind getting the school rehabbed and that her mission was to make it an inclusive environment.

Laura Tye: Assistant principal at Hope. She stated that this is not a Hope against Rudolph conversation. She stated that she is happy with the long-standing collaboration the schools have had. She stated that Rudolph has helped Hope with special needs services when Hope did not have the resources. She stated that clarification is needed on some special education issues: IEPs call for a private setting and she would like to know how this will impact them; some literature that went out stated that students would be in PE classes together and if that happens, the school will go over 30% capacity. She stated that she wants to make sure they don't get changed to a special education school and undo all the inclusive work that has been done.

Colleen Estrada: Special education classroom assistant at Rudolph. She stated that nursing services are provided to students on a daily basis but are not done in a private area. She stated that they are done in classroom settings. She stated that students and parents deserve privacy and safety. She is in support of the co-location.

Liza Reed: Counselor and case manager at Rudolph. She went over the collaborative efforts between the schools which they have developed together, including reading buddies. She stated that she is concerned about the comments made at the prior community meeting about what Hope would get out of the co-location. She stated that Rudolph hosts resource fairs where many community agencies contribute information, resources, and services. She stated that she is excited about the potential for students and staff if given the same opportunity as Hope to educate in an ADA accessible building.

Janice Jamison-Wilson: School Nurse. She stated that she has been serving Rudolph students for 3 years and that she has been a school nurse for 24 years. She stated that medically fragile students are not getting the services they need because they do not have enough space. She stated that on a typical day 11 nurses and about 10 other clinicians are serving students in the same room where IEP meetings are held. She stated that the re-location will be beneficial and that she would like more room to care for the children.

Jenson Joseph: Physical Therapist at Rudolph. He stated that the co-location will provide opportunities to students. He stated that that research shows students with disabilities benefit and excel in life with increased access and interaction with typically developing peers. He stated that relocation would allow Rudolph students to be in an ADA-updated building and give students the unique opportunity to practice using their wheelchairs, negotiating down ramps, and practice strength and endurance for increased level of independence. He stated that Rudolph does not have a full flight of stairs. He stated that it is a physical therapist's dream work on functional goals of stair-climbing and ambulation. He stated that the co-location is a great opportunity to bridge the gap between special education and general education.

Dana Galati: Assistant Principal at Rudolph. She stated that she is present to advocate on behalf of her students. She stated that they have to be the voice of the students. She stated that co-location would put approximately 455 students in a 1,000 plus capacity

space. She stated that Rudolph parents meet regularly and are willing to extend their time to the families of Hope

Maggie Guillory. Parent of Hope student. She stated that students receive phenomenal care and education at Hope. She is in support of the co-location. She gave a welcome to Rudolph students, families and staff. She stated that she has seen beautiful interactions between Rudolph and Hope students. She stated that CPS has an opportunity to bring together as a microcosm of how society should work when it comes to inclusiveness and community.

Harry Bell: Former student of Rudolph. He stated that Rudolph helped him to become a young man. Rudolph never gave up on him. He stated that when he started attending Rudolph, he could not talk, but Rudolph never gave up on him. He is in support of the co-location.

Jodi Ogilvy: Director of communications for Hope. Ms. Ogilvy read a letter on behalf of Michael Jakubowski, principal of Hope. He posed questions at the District, including, what will be done about lack of parking available due to increased staff, will co-location increase or reduce facility costs. He stated that Hope's current facility needs are not being met, including, lightbulbs that need to be changed, paint that's peeling, toilets that don't work. He expressed safety and security concerns during arrival and drop-off, and recreation-time space for students. He asked if an outdoor playground will be built as one does not currently exist. He asked how the co-share is going to affect Hope's plans of expansion of the 6th grade as he hopes it does not affect their strategic goals.

Caitlan McGary: Social worker at Rudolph. She echoed comments regarding access to facilities, need for privacy, and structural concerns and needs for both schools. She stated that the main takeaway is that each every individual attending the meeting is present to advocate for the children and that they all deserve the best education. She stated that the co-location will motivate everyone to be more adaptive, innovative and creative in their joint purpose to provide great education.

Laura Tye: Assistant principal at Hope. She stated the goal is to make sure it is a collaborative request and to make sure the plan is safe and effective for Rudolph and Hope to continue their programs and expand them as they need to do. She stated that the co-location would benefit everyone involved. She shared her concerns regarding bathrooms. She stated that Hope had been turned down for preschool due to lack of bathrooms in classrooms. She stated that there are some logistical concerns, including, the ramps are not ADA-compliant and parking spaces being wheelchair accessible. She stated that these things have to be investigated.

Estella Johnson Solid: Parent of students at Rudolph and Hope. She stated that she has heard the benefits for Rudolph students but has not heard about the benefits for Hope students. She would like to know what Hope students are getting out of the co-location.

Kristy Colyer: CPS parent and employee. She stated that parents and students need private and confidential spaces.

Julian Ramirez: CPS parent and Rudolph employee. He stated that working at Rudolph helped him change the trajectory of his life and he wants to help change the trajectory of Rudolph students' lives and help them become as independent as possible. He stated that Rudolph needs proper space and privacy for students and parents.

Sandra Calderon: CPS parent and employee. She stated that Dr. Martin Luther King had a dream of a nation that has a place at the table for children of every race and room at the inn for every needy child. She is in support of the co-location and stated that it will teach compassion for all students.

Michelle Lowe Davis: Parent of Hope student and parent on parent's board. She stated that the parents' board are all in agreement that this is going to be a good transition and amalgamation for both schools. She stated that Hope has been supportive and welcoming of Rudolph students from the beginning. She stated her concerns regarding transparency and the known fact that CPS is not very transparent. She stated that she too would like to know how Hope is going to benefit from the co-location. She stated that they are seeking to get 6th, 7th and 8th grade. She stated that transition for special needs kids is difficult and without a 6th grade, students are going to fall behind. She would like this taken into consideration.

Fernando Olszanski: Teacher at Rudolph. He stated that he has been working in the library. He stated that when there are 10 wheelchairs in the library, they can barely move, and the kids cannot receive proper services. He stated that in summertime, they typically spend 3 or 4 days without cooling, and in wintertime, they spend 3 or 4 days without heating because someone has to fix the AC and heater. He stated that the Rudolph administration is hardworking and committed and that their students are marvelous. He stated that parents trust them with the best things they have, their children. He stated that Rudolph needs a building.

Jason Saxton: Father of a student at Rudolph. He stated that staff at Rudolph is amazing. He stated that he would not want any other school for his child. He thanked the administration at Rudolph.

Alfonso Seiva: Father of a child at Rudolph. He stated that Rudolph is one of the best schools in the United States. He asked Hope for the opportunity to share their space because parents, teachers and students need it. He stated that Hope is one of the few schools that provide this opportunity to serve the community. He requests wholeheartedly that the co-location is accepted.

Public comments started at 6:21 p.m.

Public comments ended at 7:14 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.